

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are now at issue. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are amended herein. Applicants are submitting a Declaration of Donald J. Williams in support of the prior Amendment filed August 2, 2002. Reconsider and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1211.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Sept. 13, 2002

By: Michael D. Williams
Michael D. Williams
Reg. No. 34,754

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. A switched reluctance electric machine comprising:

a stator including a plurality of circumferentially-spaced stator segment assemblies that include a stator segment core and winding wire that is wound around said stator segment core;

a rotor defining a plurality of rotor poles, wherein said rotor tends to rotate relative to said stator to maximize the inductance of an energized winding; and

a sensorless drive circuit that derives rotor position and that energizes said winding wire around said stator segment assemblies to control operation of said switched reluctance machine based on said derived position of said rotor.

11. A sensorless switched reluctance electric machine comprising:

a stator;

a rotor;

a machine housing;

a plurality of circumferentially-spaced stator segment assemblies that are arranged around an inner surface of said machine housing;

said stator segment assemblies defining a salient stator pole that extends in a radially inward direction;

said stator segment assemblies including a stator segment core and winding wire that is wound around said stator segment core; and

a sensorless drive circuit that is connected to said winding wire, that derives rotor position and that energizes said winding wire around said stator segment assemblies to control operation of said switched reluctance machine based on said derived position of said rotor.

21. A sensorless switched reluctance electric machine comprising:

a machine housing;

a rotor that rotates relative to said machine housing;

a stator that is mounted on an inner surface of said machine housing, said stator including a plurality of circumferentially-spaced stator segment assemblies, wherein said stator segment assemblies include a stack of stator plates forming a stator segment core and winding wire that is wound around said stator segment core, and wherein each of said stator plates has a generally "T"-shaped cross-section, a radially outer rim section, and a tooth section that extends radially inwardly from a center portion of said radially outer rim section; and

a sensorless drive circuit that derives rotor position and that energizes said winding wire around said stator segment assemblies to control operation of said switched reluctance machine based on said derived rotor position.